



US005279700A

United States Patent [19]**Retti**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,279,700**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 18, 1994**[54] **AUTOMATED WALLBOARD TAPING APPARATUS AND PROCESS THEREFOR**[75] **Inventor:** **Kahl L. Retti**, Timonium, Md.[73] **Assignee:** **Drywall Technologies, Inc.**, Glen Burnie, Md.[21] **Appl. No.:** **696,131**[22] **Filed:** **May 6, 1991****Related U.S. Application Data**

[60] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 518,320, May 7, 1990, Pat. No. 5,013,389, which is a division of Ser. No. 695,098, May 3, 1991.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **B32B 31/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **156/578; 156/356; 156/357; 156/526; 156/547; 156/575; 118/679**[58] **Field of Search** **156/356, 357, 361, 523, 156/524, 526, 531, 547, 549, 575, 577, 578, 579; 118/410, 676, 677, 679, 683**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,707,427	12/1972	Erickson	118/410 X
3,960,643	6/1976	Dargitz et al.	156/526 X
4,105,490	8/1978	Lass	156/526
4,127,434	11/1978	Lass	156/526
4,569,864	2/1986	McIntyre	118/679 X
4,689,107	8/1987	Entwistle	156/524 X

4,775,442 10/1988 Januska 156/577 X

Primary Examiner—David A. Simmons*Assistant Examiner*—James J. Engel, Jr.*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Sherman and Shalloway

[57]

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for taping joints between pieces of wallboard comprises a taping head, slidably contactable with a wall, for substantially simultaneously applying a first layer of a joint compound to a joint between pieces of wallboard, embedding a wallboard tape in the first layer of the joint compound, and overcoating the embedded wallboard tape with at least one additional layer of the joint compound; a handle, connected to the taping head, for supporting the taping head, the handle being manually graspable by an operator, the handle having a fluid conduit formed therein for passing joint compound to the taping head; a tape supply mounted on the handle for supplying wallboard tape to the taping head; a backpack, wearable by the operator, for supporting a supply of the joint compound and for producing a pressurized stream of the joint compound; and a flexible connecting means for fluidically interconnecting the backpack and the fluid conduit to pass the pressurized stream of the joint compound from the backpack to the fluid conduit.

22 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets